

birds together with *A. saturata* and *A. siparaja* will feed amicably together in the same trees.

Vanellus cinereus (Blyth). The Greyheaded Lapwing. I can find no records of this bird in the Kathmandu Valley, but it is in fact quite a common winter visitor from the end of September to the end of March. Flocks of from 6 to 20 birds being usually found along the Manora River, feeding in old rice fields. A large proportion of the birds are usually immatures without the dark pectoral band.

BRITISH EMBASSY,
KATHMANDU,
NEPAL,
January 3, 1961.

DESIRÉE PROUD

13. SOME BIRD RECORDS FROM NORTHERN BURMA WITH A DESCRIPTION OF A NEW SUBSPECIES

Mr. Oliver Milton, a field associate of this Museum, made a long trip in Burma from November 1958, through December 1960, on behalf of a project known as the Burma Wildlife Survey sponsored by the Conservation Foundation of New York, the New York Zoological Society, the American Committee for International Wildlife Preservation and the Peabody Museum of Natural History of Yale University. During this trip Mr. Milton had the co-operation of the Burma Forest Department, and officials of the Burma Government throughout were the soul of courtesy and help as indeed they always are. It is very much to be hoped that Mr. Milton's arduous work which resulted in concrete recommendations to the Government of Burma for wildlife sanctuaries throughout the less encroached-upon and wilder portions of that wonderful country will eventually form the basis for an extension of the present park and reserved forest system. The larger mammals such as the rhinoceros are in great danger of following the European aurochs into oblivion. May the sad examples of neglect of animal species in other countries be heeded by the Governments of the nations of Southeast Asia.

Some areas of northern Burma are still very little known as far as the distribution of birds is concerned (*vide* Smythies, 1953) and I had asked Mr. Milton when he was in such areas to make some observations on birds and collect a very few specimens here and there which might add to the knowledge of the distribution of the Burmese

avifauna. Though hampered by physical difficulties and other primary duties, Mr. Milton collected some records which are worthy of note, particularly in two previously uncollected areas:

(a) Hpungran Wang, a locality west of Putao in extreme northwest Burma, Long. 97° E., Lat. $27^{\circ} 35'$ N., about fifty-five miles (c. 88 km.) southwest of the Adung Valley.

(b) Mount Saramati, highest mountain south of the Himalayas, lying on the India-Burma border in the Naga Hills, Long. $95^{\circ} 03'$ E., Lat. $25^{\circ} 45'$ N., reaching a height of over 12,500 feet (3800 m.) above sea level. On my trip to the Indian Naga Hills (1952), I attempted to reach Mount Saramati from the Indian side without success although I climbed Mount Zephu, a lower [8408 ft. (c. 2560 m.)] feature of the same chain. We could see Saramati plainly and my heart beat faster each time I gazed fondly at its grassy alpine-appearing upper slopes, fancying the unknown forms of animals to be found there. As I wrote then: 'But this problem (the ascent of Saramati) will remain for another attempt. I certainly wish much luck and God-speed to the ornithologist who visits that challenging mountain.' Mr. Milton's trip was of course not really ornithological. But the fact that he could make any observations at all on the birds of Saramati, and that now after ten years I could examine a few specimens has seemed to me almost like an answer to an ornithological supplication.

Following is a list of some of the records of specimens:

1. **Alcedo hercules** Laubmann

A male in breeding condition was taken February 18, 1951 at Shangawng, Putao District. This is perhaps the third record for Burma (Stanford & Ticehurst, 1935).

2. **Jynx torquilla chinensis** Hesse

A female from Hpungran Madin, Putao District April 5 at 7500 feet (c. 2280 m.) above sea level is worth recording.

3. **Picus canus sordidior** (Rippon)

A male from Kutkai, northern Shan States taken at 4500 feet (c. 1370 m.) appears to represent this Yunnan subspecies.

4. **Serilophus lunatus rubropygius** (Hodgson)

A female from Sawkuti, Naga Hills near Saramati was collected at 3000 feet (c. 910 m.) altitude. I feel that these Broadbills can be combined into one species and are allopatric in their distribution.

5. ***Sturnus malabaricus malabaricus*** (Gmelin)

A female from Homalin on the upper Chindwin belongs to the nominate form rather than *nemoricola* as listed by Smythies (tom. cit.) 1953.

6. ***Garrulax caerulatus livingstoni*** Ripley

A specimen collected at Sahpao, Naga Hills near Saramati belongs to the race described from Mount Japvo, Indian Naga Hills (1952) extending the range quite logically into this adjacent area of northwest Burma.

7. ***Garrulax rufogularis rufiberbis*** (Koelz)

In contrast to the above, a single specimen of *Garrulax rufogularis* from Wailam Sanghkao, northeast of Saramati in the Naga Hills belongs to a greyer, paler population rather than to *assamensis* of the adjacent Indian territory. This race was described in 1954 from Htawgaw.

8. ***Actinodura waldeni saturatior*** (Rothschild)

A single bird from Hpungran Wang, west of Putao, matches Rothschild's description (1921) in having a blackish crown with pale silvery grey margins, in being dark above and below with rusty yellow edgings on the feathers of the under surface, and with more silvery grey ear coverts. This description applies also to *Actinodura nipalensis wardi* Kinnear (1932) described from the Adung Valley some fifty miles (c. 80 km.) as the crow flies from Hpungran Wang. It seems wiser, therefore, to make *wardi* a synonym of *saturatior* as Ticehurst (1935) first suspected.

A specimen from the vicinity of Mount Saramati agrees with topotypical *waldeni* from Mount Japvo in the Indian Naga Hills (Barrail Range), although in general coloration it is a trace paler.

This species should be separated from *nipalensis*, being entirely different in plumage pattern, as Rothschild (1926) long ago pointed out.

9. ***Garrulax striatus cranbrooki*** Kinnear

A small series from west of Putao measure:

Putao : Wing ♂ 139, 145. ♀ 140.5, 142 mm.
Mishmi Hills. Assam : Wing ♂ 140, 147. ♀ 133, 141 mm.

As Ticehurst pointed out (1935) the differences between *cranbrooki* and '*austeni*' (preoccupied in *Garrulax*, now = *brahmaputra* Hachisuka, 1953) are minor. I have compared these fresh skins and our series from the Mishmi Hills of Assam adjacent to the Daffla Hills, the typical locality for *brahmaputra*. There appears to be no difference

in size and the soiled or clear colour of the striae on the ear coverts is somewhat variable. One out of five Burmese skins has whitish striae, one out of four Mishmi and Margherita birds has more buffy, less whitish striae. In this case it would seem useful to combine the two populations under the one name *cranbrooki* (1932) which has priority over *brahmaputra*.

10. **Yuhina bakeri** Rothschild

Obtained in the Burmese Naga Hills at Sawkkye in November as well as west of Putao.

11. **Yuhina flavicollis rouxi** (Oustalet)

This is a rather variable form, and I think we were unwise to salvage the subspecies *baileyi* (Baker) for the population of the Mishmi Hills (1948). Three additional specimens from west of Putao show considerable variation in the colour and amount of pale shaft streaking of the upper parts and the colour of the nuchal collar. Perhaps all the birds of northern Burma and northern and eastern Assam should be combined under this one population name.

12. **Alcippe vinipectus austeni** (Ogilvie-grant)

A specimen from the Burmese side of Mount Saramati proves, as might be expected to belong to the Assam Naga Hills subspecies.

13. **Muscicapella hodgsoni hodgsoni** (Moore)

A male in breeding condition was taken April 4 at Hpungran Wang, western Putao adding a new district to those from which this little-known flycatcher has been recorded in Burma.

14. **Phoenicurus hodgsoni** (Moore)

Shangawng, Putao District, February 18.

15. **Seicercus poliogenys** (Blyth)

A single male was collected at Hpungran Wang, Putao, in November.

16. **Seicercus castaniceps castaniceps** (Hodgson)

A male in breeding condition was taken March 30 at Hpungran Wang, western Putao district.

17. **Phylloscopus davisoni disturbans** La Touche

From Kutkai, northern Shan States, a male taken December 3 has faint white edges to the inner webs of the outer rectrices and evidently belongs to this form.

18. *Parus rubidiventris saramatii* new subspecies

Type: ♂ ad. (Y.P.M. No. 61240), collected December 9, 1959, on Mount Saramati, Naga Hills by Oliver Milton.

Diagnosis: from *beavani* of the Himalayas and extreme northern Burma, this form differs markedly by having the underparts deep olive grey washed with drab, more particularly on the centre of the belly and under tail-coverts. The upper parts are buffy olive rather than blue-grey. From *rubidiventris*, this form differs on the upper parts by being greyish buffy olive, rather than olive brown, the grey with a faint isabelline cast, more pronounced on the rump. Below of course these birds are again deep olive grey washed with drab rather than grey.

Measurements: Wing ♂ 66.5, ♀ 65; tail ♂ 48, ♀ 46.5; culmen ♂♀ 10 (2).

Remarks: these two specimens were collected at an altitude of 10,500 feet (c. 3200 m.) in heavy rhododendron forest. The feet are marked as black on the labels. This is the first record for this species south of the Brahmaputra River or, in Burma, south of the Adung Valley or the Htawgaw area east of the Triangle. In both these localities *beavani* has been taken at altitudes of approximately 12,000 feet (c. 3600 m.) above sea level.

19. *Sitta formosa* Blyth

In view of the rarity of records of this species from Burma, it should be recorded that a female was collected on Mount Saramati on December 12 at an altitude of 5200 feet (c. 1580 m.).

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